

He is still a serious student of the law — from the legislative process, to the courts of justice — having served as a practicing attorney, as a solicitor, as a member of the General Statutes Commission, as a member of the Courts Commission, and as Chairman of the Committee on Courts and Judicial Districts of this House, with much of the responsibility for the current major changes in our State's judicial structure.

The people of his hometown of Fairmont, his home county of Robeson, and throughout the State of North Carolina have called on the many talents of David Britt, and he has responded most generously and ably, serving his local church, the First Baptist, for many years as an officer and Sunday School teacher, his community as chairman at one time or another of almost every worthwhile activity, including four years as Chairman of the school board.

His successful direction of local and county affairs earned for him the Adrian B. McRae Award as 'Man of the Year' for Robeson County in 1957 and attracted the attention of leaders throughout the area, who entrusted him with ever broader and heavier responsibilities, including that of Governor of his district of Rotary International, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Robeson County, member for two terms of the State Democratic Executive Committee, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Southeastern General Hospital and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of North Carolina Cancer Institute, Chairman of the Robeson Baptist Association, member of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention, member of the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest College, and President of its alumni association.

Mr. Britt served his country during World War II as a private in the United States Army and is a member of the American Legion.

The finest thing he ever did was to marry the former Louise Teague of Fairmont and raise three fine daughters and one fine son.

There are always many aspirants for this high office and usually there are several actual candidates.

Why, then, did David Britt receive the nomination of the Democratic Caucus unanimously and without even the mention of any other candidate?

There are many members of this House who have outstanding records of public service and are highly capable leaders in their own right.

Why, then, have these same men, without exception, tacitly agreed even as long as four years ago that David Britt would be their Speaker in 1967?

I think the answer lies in a compelling desire on the part of this unusual man to render outstanding service in whatever he may undertake — a desire that drives him to work harder than anyone I have known to gain a thorough knowledge of the subject at hand, and then to make his decisions and carry out his plans with the confidence and the ability that can come only to one who has such a thorough knowledge and a strong reservoir of faith in the Supreme Being.